

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

(By Senators Kessler (Acting President), Unger, Browning, Foster,
Stollings, McCabe, Yost and Klempa)

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to
authorize the Joint Interim Committee on Economic Development
to study efficient mineral development by cotenancy and
unitization.

Whereas, West Virginia has been blessed with ample supplies of
natural resources; and

Whereas, The production of natural resources has been a
foundation of the state's economy, domestic energy and National
Security and is the largest contributor to West Virginia's Gross
Domestic Product (GDP); and

Whereas, The efficient and safe production of natural
resources makes West Virginia an integral supplier of the most
commonly used fuel sources in electric generation and home and
industrial heating in the US; and

Whereas, The state's natural resource industries employ
thousands of state residents, pay hundreds of millions of dollars
in wages and state business taxes; and

Whereas, Recent shale gas discovery and development has
resulted in significant economic opportunity for West Virginia; and

1 Whereas, The efficient production of natural resources is
2 critical to maintain West Virginia's role as a major supplier of
3 this nation's energy needs; and

4 Whereas, West Virginia is one of only three states that
5 requires the consent of all partial mineral interests before
6 natural resource production can commence; and

7 Whereas, This limited legal principal creates a deleterious
8 effect on the rights of majority mineral owners in West Virginia
9 and results in the inefficient development and waste of West
10 Virginia's natural resources; and

11 Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature finds that efficient
12 and equitable mineral development is a cornerstone of the state's
13 economy; therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance authorize
16 the Joint Interim Committee on Economic Development to study
17 efficient mineral development by cotenancy and unitization; and, be
18 it

19 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Interim Committee on Economic
20 Development report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance
21 prior to the first day of the regular session, 2012, on its
22 findings, conclusions and recommendations together with drafts of
23 any legislation to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

24 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
25 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be

1 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
2 Government and Finance.